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### 2005 Montana Statewide Test Results

#### Background

In 2005, all Montana students in grades 4, 8, and 11 participated in the fourth statewide norm-referenced standardized tests, the ITBS and the ITED, Form A. Montana students were tested in Reading, Language Arts, Mathematics, Social Studies, and Science.

Montana standards include basic knowledge, application of basic and specific knowledge, and process skills. The ITBS and ITED are designed to measure basic knowledge and some application skills. Montana students do very well on the tests, scoring above the national norm group in all grades and subjects.

The results of the tests give a picture of aspects of student achievement, and it is recognized that they do not measure all Montana standards or district curricula. However, it is important that the data are used constructively for what they are intended, as measures of achievement and comparisons with a national norm group.

*"It is the mission of the Office of Public Instruction to improve teaching and learning through communication, collaboration, advocacy, and accountability to those we serve."*

## Guide to the Reports

**The 2005 Montana Statewide Test Results Report to the Board of Public Education includes this introduction and five subject reports: reading, language arts, mathematics, social studies, and science.**

### Each report includes

1. Introduction to the subject with general tables and charts
2. Charts for each grade level within the subject are disaggregated within district size categories:
  - Horizontal charts with explanatory text following each
  - Charts and tables are numbered to reflect the grade, the number of the chart, and the subject. Examples:
    - R: 4, 8, 11** = Reading for all three grades
    - R 4.1** = Reading, grade 4, chart 1
    - LA 8.3** = Language Arts, grade 8, chart 3
    - M 11.5** = Mathematics, grade 11, chart 5
    - SS** = Social Studies; **SC** = Science
  - Arranged from the bottom of the chart up beginning with the state and going up the left side of the chart in the order of district size category, small to large.
  - The district size categories and the number of students tested in that district size category are labeled.
  - The percents along the bottom of the charts are the National Percentile Ranks (NPRs).

### Types of information used in the reports

1. Disaggregations--by whole state and by district size category  
Results are reported for each of the following groups:
  - All students with number tested
  - School size category with number tested
  - Students without disabilities
  - Students with disabilities
  - Female students
  - Male students
  - Native American students \*
  - White students \*
  - Students with free/reduced lunch with number tested
  - Students with limited English proficiency (LEP)

**\*NOTE:** This report is limited to a comparison of Montana's Native American and White students. Full race/ethnicity disaggregations are available online.

2. District Size Categories—only applicable size categories will be included in specific charts.

Montana school districts are divided into categories according to the number of students. The total number of students tested in a small size district category may be greater than the total number of students tested in a larger size category because Montana has many small sized districts. The following are the size categories:

- 1E = Elementary, more than 2500 students
- 1H = High School, more than 1250 students
- 1K = K-12, more than 399 students
- 2E = Elementary, 851-2500 students
- 2H = High School, 401 to 1250 students
- 2K = K-12, 399 or fewer students
- 3E = Elementary, 401-850 students
- 3H = High School, 201-400 students
- 4E = Elementary, 151-400 students
- 4H = High School, 76-200 students
- 5E = Elementary, 41-150 students
- 5H = High School, 75 or fewer students
- 6E = Elementary, 40 or fewer students

3. Scores Reported

**National Percentile Rank (NPR)** compares Montana students with students in the national norm group. The average NPR for Montana 4<sup>th</sup> grade reading students is 68%, meaning that Montana 4<sup>th</sup> grade students scored the same as or better than 68% of the students in the national norm group. All NPRs in this report are averages (An NPR average is calculated statistically and not by the simple mathematical process).

[Charts in each grade and subject section show the NPR.]

**National Stanines (NS)**, derived from the National Percentile Ranks, are organized into the following Montana performance categories for the Iowa Tests:

Novice	Stanines 1 – 3
Nearing Proficiency	Stanine 4
Proficient	Stanines 5-7
Advanced	Stanines 8-9

[The Montana performance category data is shown statewide by grade, subject area, and disaggregation in each subject area introduction.]

**Customized Skills Reports**, reports aligned to Montana standards, provide aggregated data and are specific to Montana standards. Customized Skills Reports are compiled by Riverside Publishing Company for the state and districts. Information from these reports includes:

1. The number of items which measure a specific Montana standard and
2. The average percent correct by Montana students by subject and grade

**Other Related Measures, when appropriate, may include:**

**NAEP, National Assessment of Educational Progress**

- NAEP tests a representative sample of students from each state in some subject areas and grades. The scores included in this report are from a representative sample of Montana students.
- NAEP scoring is on a 0-500 scale with four achievement levels:  
Basic  
Above Basic (does not indicate deficiency)  
Proficient  
Advanced
- Cut scores for the levels depend upon the grade and the subject. The NAEP data that are reported will include average scores for all students nationally, all White students nationally, all Native American students nationally, all Montana students, all White Montana students, and all Native American Montana students.

**ACT Results**

The ACT Assessment is a college qualifying exam scored on a scale of 1-36, with 36 being the highest possible score for each subject tested.

- Subjects tested:
  - English
  - Math
  - Reading
  - Science Reasoning
- Score results, according to ACT, mean:
  - 17 or higher: typical requirement for colleges and universities with liberal or open admissions policies.
  - 22 or higher: typical requirement for colleges or universities with selective admissions policies.
  - 27 or higher: typical requirement for admission to most highly selective colleges and universities.
- The average score for each of the subjects for the national group and Montana students taking the tests (all, white, and Native American) is included in this report in the specific subject section.

**SAT Results**

- The SAT Assessment is a college qualifying exam scored on an 800 point scale for each of two subject areas, verbal and math.
- The average score for the subject areas for the national group and Montana students taking the tests (all, White, and Native American) is included in this report in the specific subject section.

## Summary

### Overall Results by Grade and Subject

The following chart displays the National Percentile Ranks for Montana students in grades 4, 8, and 11 who took the Iowa Tests in 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, and 2005. It serves as an anchor for the charts that follow in the subject sections, which provide details according to disaggregations and size categories.

